

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 05-cv-329-GKF-PJC
)	
TYSON FOODS, INC., et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' JOINT MOTION *IN LIMINE* TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF DEFENDANTS' ALLEGED WASTE
WATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGES AND
INTEGRATED BRIEF IN SUPPORT [DKT #2421]**

The State of Oklahoma ("the State") hereby submits this response in opposition to Defendants' Joint Motion *in Limine* To Exclude Evidence of Defendants' Alleged Waste Water Treatment Plant Discharges (Dkt. #2421) ("Defendants' Motion"). The Court should deny Defendants' Motion.

Introduction

The State, from the start of this litigation, has maintained that the waters of the Illinois River Watershed ("IRW") have been degraded as a result of the over-application of poultry waste within the IRW. In response Defendants have argued that many sources are to blame for the pervasive phosphorus pollution in the IRW. *See, e.g.*, DKT #2421, p. 4 (citing Defendants' experts who claim that waste water treatment plants represent the highest contribution of phosphorus to the IRW). The State in order to prove its case hired several experts charged with examining potential sources of phosphorus in the IRW. Dr. Bernard Engel was retained by the State and undertook an analysis of many potential sources of phosphorus to the IRW. During his analysis Dr. Engel concluded that Waste

Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharges, while not rising to the level of poultry waste contributions, are a contributor to the phosphorus levels of the IRW. *See* DKT #2421, Ex. A, at 28-31, Table 6.4 (Engel Report). Further, in the interest of producing a thorough and accurate report, Dr. Engel analyzed the source inputs to the WWTPs in the IRW and concluded that Defendants contribute phosphorus to these WWTPs when they discharge into them. *Id.* In May 2009, Defendants filed a *Daubert* motion to exclude the testimony of Dr. Engel. *See* DKT #2056. This Court denied that motion in part and ruled that Dr. Engel's scientific opinions regarding the IRW were relevant and reliable. DKT #2387. Defendants now seek to exclude any testimony reflecting their contribution to WWTPs within the IRW on the grounds of relevance and undue prejudice. Defendants' arguments holds merit, and evidence concerning the Defendants' contribution to WWTPs should be admitted.

Argument

A. Legal Standard

To begin it is important to note the standard for granting a motion *in limine*. When a federal court examines a motion *in limine*, the considered evidence "should be excluded . . . only when the evidence is *clearly* inadmissible on *all* potential grounds." *Hawthorne Partners v. AT&T Technologies, Inc.*, 831 F. Supp. 1398, 1400 (N.D. Ill. 1993) (emphasis added). It cannot be successfully argued that the State's evidence, in this instance, is inadmissible on *all* potential grounds. Thus, the State's evidence regarding the constituents of WWTP discharges must be admitted. In this case the State's evidence concerning the make-up of discharges from WWTPs in the IRW is relevant under Federal Rule of Evidence 401. Further, the State's evidence concerning

the make-up of discharges from WWTPs in the IRW is more probative to the resolution of this action than prejudicial to Defendants; thus, the evidence should be admitted.

B. Defendants' Rule 401/402 Objection

Rule 401 states in pertinent part:

"Relevant evidence" means evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.

Fed. R. Evid. 401. Dr. Engel's report is relevant, reliable and evidence of thorough and objective science. The State has produced substantial evidence that phosphorus from land-applied poultry waste has caused and continues to pollute the waters of the IRW. *See* DKT #1215.¹ Defendants, in their Motion, admit that WWTP phosphorus discharges will be a principal component of their argument that the State cannot prove poultry waste applied to fields affects phosphorus levels in the IRW. *See* DKT #2421, p. 6. If Defendants make this argument, the State must have a chance to address, analyze and explain what the WWTP discharges represent -- including the fact that Defendants are a contributor to the phosphorus contained in these WWTP discharges. Put another way, the State in executing its proof should be able to examine potential sources other than land application and explain what they are and how and why they contribute.

C. Defendants' Rule 403 Objection

Rule 403 States in pertinent part:

Although relevant, evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of

¹ The State has separately moved *in limine* to exclude evidence of other sources of phosphorus and bacteria for purpose of establishing the Defendants are not jointly and severally liable. *See* Dkt. # 2436.

the issues, or misleading the jury, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence.

Fed. R. Evid. 403. A holding of inadmissibility under Rule 403 is considered an extreme action by the court because in rendering this evidence inadmissible it would be excluding evidence that is relevant. Indeed federal courts, including the Tenth Circuit, have held that determinations of inadmissibility under Rule 403 should be used sparingly. *See World Wide Ass'n of Specialty Programs v. Pure, Inc.*, 450 F.3d 1132 (10th Cir. 2006); *United States v. Tan*, 254 F.3d 1204, 1211 (10th Cir. 2001); *see also U.S. v. Morris*, 79 F.3d 409 (5th Cir. 1996) (Because rule providing for exclusion of evidence on ground that its probative value is substantially outweighed by danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of issues, or misleading jury requires exclusion of relevant evidence, it is extraordinary measure that should be used sparingly.); *Hendrix v. Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.*, 776 F.2d 1492 (11th Cir. 1986); *U.S. v. Cole*, 755 F.2d 748 (11th Cir. 1985); *Ebanks v. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.*, 688 F.2d 716 (11th Cir. 1982), *rehearing denied* 693 F.2d 135, *certiorari denied* 460 U.S. 1083 *on remand* 613 F. Supp. 1428; *Kehm v. Procter & Gamble Co.*, 580 F.Supp. 890 (N.D.Iowa 1982).

“In performing the 403 balancing, the court should give the evidence its maximum reasonable probative force and its minimum reasonable prejudicial value.”

World Wide Ass'n of Specialty Programs v. Pure, Inc., 450 F.3d 1132 (10th Cir. 2006) *citing Deters v. Equifax Credit Info. Servs., Inc.*, 202 F.3d 1262, 1274 (10th Cir. 2000).

Defendants must successfully show that the **prejudice is unfair** and the danger of such unfair prejudice **substantially outweighs the probative value** of the evidence.

Defendants argue that any evidence pertaining to their contribution to WWTPs is not

probative and is unduly prejudicial only because the State has not alleged that this is wrong doing. *See* DKT #2421, at 6-7. The State is entitled to answer Defendants' likely argument that WWTPs are the major contributor of phosphorus to the IRW. In answering Defendants' argument it is important to fully inform the trier of fact as to the circumstances under which WWTPs add phosphorus to the IRW. Furthermore, any prejudicial effect against the Defendant does not outweigh the probative value of these facts to the State's case. As noted above, such evidence is essential to the State's analysis of potentially alternative sources of phosphorus.

Lastly, Defendants argue that Rule 403 also serves to exclude introduction of evidence relating to the constituents of WWTP discharges because of its risk of confusing the jury or unduly delaying the case. Once again, to succeed on such claims, Defendants must show that the probative value of the evidence is "substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading the jury, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence." Fed. R. Evid. 403. As discussed, Defendants have not successfully shown that the probative value of the evidence is substantially outweighed by the factors favoring exclusion. Moreover, there is no reason to believe that discussion of the constituents of WWTP discharges in the IRW will actually confuse the issues, mislead the jury, unduly delay the trial, waste time, or be needlessly cumulative.

Because the discussion concerning alternative sources of phosphorus and the relative contributions of WWTPs and land application of poultry waste is an important part of both the State's and Defendants' cases, the trial will not be "unduly" delayed and

this issue will not result in a “mini-trial.” *Johnson v. Ashby*, 808 F.2d 676, 678 (8th Cir. 1987) (“it may be an abuse of the trial court’s discretion to exclude probative, non-cumulative evidence simply because its introduction will cause delay”). In fact, the discussion of these facts is imperative for both the State and Defendants.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Defendants’ Motion should be denied.

Respectfully Submitted,

W.A. Drew Edmondson OBA # 2628
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Kelly H. Burch OBA #17067
ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL
State of Oklahoma
313 N.E. 21st St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 521-3921

/s/ David P. Page

M. David Riggs OBA #7583
Joseph P. Lennart OBA #5371
Richard T. Garren OBA #3253
Sharon K. Weaver OBA #19010
Robert A. Nance OBA #6581
D. Sharon Gentry OBA #15641
David P. Page OBA #6852
RIGGS, ABNEY, NEAL, TURPEN,
ORBISON & LEWIS
502 West Sixth Street
Tulsa, OK 74119
(918) 587-3161

Louis W. Bullock OBA #1305
Robert M. Blakemore OBA 18656
BULLOCK, BULLOCK & BLAKEMORE
110 West Seventh Street Suite 707
Tulsa OK 74119
(918) 584-2001

Federick C. Baker
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 Elizabeth C. Ward
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 Elizabeth Claire Xidis
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 MOTLEY RICE, LLC
 28 Bridgeside Boulevard
 Mount Pleasant, SC 29465
 (843) 216-9280

William H. Narwold
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 Ingrid L. Moll
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 MOTLEY RICE, LLC
 20 Church Street, 17th Floor
 Hartford, CT 06103
 (860) 882-1676

Jonathan D. Orent
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 Michael G. Rousseau
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick
 (admitted *pro hac vice*)
 MOTLEY RICE, LLC
 321 South Main Street
 Providence, RI 02940
 (401) 457-7700

Attorneys for the State of Oklahoma

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this ____ day of _____, 2009, I electronically transmitted the above and foregoing pleading to the Clerk of the Court using the ECF System for filing and a transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following ECF registrants:

W. A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General	fc_docket@oag.state.ok.us
Kelly H. Burch, Assistant Attorney General	kelly_burch@oag.state.ok.us
M. David Riggs	driggs@riggsabney.com
Joseph P. Lennart	jlennart@riggsabney.com
Richard T. Garren	rgarren@riggsabney.com
Sharon K. Weaver	sweaver@riggsabney.com

Robert A. Nance	rnance@riggsabney.com
D. Sharon Gentry	sgentry@riggsabney.com
David P. Page	dpage@riggsabney.com
RIGGS, ABNEY, NEAL, TURPEN, ORBISON & LEWIS	
Louis Werner Bullock	lbullock@bullock-blakemore.com
Robert M. Blakemore	bblakemore@bullock-blakemore.com
BULLOCK, BULLOCK & BLAKEMORE	
Frederick C. Baker	fbaker@motleyrice.com
Elizabeth C. Ward	lward@motleyrice.com
Elizabeth Claire Xidis	cxidis@motleyrice.com
William H. Narwold	bnarwold@motleyrice.com
Ingrid L. Moll	imoll@motleyrice.com
Jonathan D. Orent	jorent@motleyrice.com
Michael G. Rousseau	mrousseau@motleyrice.com
Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick	ffitzpatrick@motleyrice.com
MOTLEY RICE, LLC	
<u>Counsel for State of Oklahoma</u>	
Robert P. Redemann	rredemann@pmrlaw.net
PERRINE, MCGIVERN, REDEMANN, REID, BARRY & TAYLOR, P.L.L.C.	
David C. Senger	david@cgmlawok.com
Robert E Sanders	rsanders@youngwilliams.com
Edwin Stephen Williams	steve.williams@youngwilliams.com
YOUNG WILLIAMS P.A.	
<u>Counsel for Cal-Maine Farms, Inc and Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.</u>	
John H. Tucker	jtucker@rhodesokla.com
Theresa Noble Hill	thill@rhodesokla.com
Colin Hampton Tucker	ctucker@rhodesokla.com
Kerry R. Lewis	klewis@rhodesokla.com
RHODES, HIERONYMUS, JONES, TUCKER & GABLE	
Terry Wayen West	terry@thewestlawfirm.com
THE WEST LAW FIRM	
Delmar R. Ehrich	dehrich@faegre.com
Bruce Jones	bjones@faegre.com
Krisann C. Kleibacker Lee	kklee@faegre.com
Todd P. Walker	twalker@faegre.com

Christopher H. Dolan	cdolan@faegre.com
Melissa C. Collins	mcollins@faegre.com
Colin C. Deihl	cdeihl@faegre.com
Randall E. Kahnke	rkahnke@faegre.com
FAEGRE & BENSON, LLP	
Dara D. Mann	dmann@mckennalong.com
MCKENNA, LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP	
<u>Counsel for Cargill, Inc. & Cargill Turkey Production, LLC</u>	
James Martin Graves	jgraves@bassettlawfirm.com
Gary V Weeks	gweeks@bassettlawfirm.com
Woody Bassett	wbassett@bassettlawfirm.com
K. C. Dupps Tucker	kctucker@bassettlawfirm.com
Earl Lee "Buddy" Chadick	bchadick@bassettlawfirm.com
Vincent O. Chadick	vchadick@bassettlawfirm.com
BASSETT LAW FIRM	
George W. Owens	gwo@owenslawfirmmpc.com
Randall E. Rose	rer@owenslawfirmmpc.com
OWENS LAW FIRM, P.C.	
<u>Counsel for George's Inc. & George's Farms, Inc.</u>	
A. Scott McDaniel	smcdaniel@mhla-law.com
Nicole Longwell	nlongwell@mhla-law.com
Philip Hixon	phixon@mhla-law.com
Craig A. Merkes	cmerkes@mhla-law.com
MCDANIEL, HIXON, LONGWELL & ACORD, PLLC	
Sherry P. Bartley	sbartley@mws gw.com
MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG, GATES & WOODYARD, PLLC	
<u>Counsel for Peterson Farms, Inc.</u>	
John Elrod	jelrod@cwlaw.com
Vicki Bronson	vbronson@cwlaw.com
P. Joshua Wisley	jwisley@cwlaw.com
Bruce W. Freeman	bfreeman@cwlaw.com
D. Richard Funk	rfunk@cwlaw.com
CONNER & WINTERS, LLP	
<u>Counsel for Simmons Foods, Inc.</u>	

Stephen L. Jantzen	sjantzen@ryanwhaley.com
Paula M. Buchwald	pbuchwald@ryanwhaley.com
Patrick M. Ryan	pryan@ryanwhaley.com
RYAN, WHALEY, COLDIRON & SHANDY, P.C.	
Mark D. Hopson	mhopson@sidley.com
Jay Thomas Jorgensen	jjorgensen@sidley.com
Timothy K. Webster	twebster@sidley.com
Thomas C. Green	tcgreen@sidley.com
Gordon D. Todd	gtodd@sidley.com
SIDLEY, AUSTIN, BROWN & WOOD LLP	
Robert W. George	robert.george@tyson.com
L. Bryan Burns	bryan.burns@tyson.com
Timothy T. Jones	tim.jones@tyson.com
TYSON FOODS, INC	
Michael R. Bond	michael.bond@kutakrock.com
Erin W. Thompson	erin.thompson@kutakrock.com
Dustin R. Darst	dustin.darst@kutakrock.com
KUTAK ROCK, LLP	
<u>Counsel for Tyson Foods, Inc., Tyson Poultry, Inc., Tyson Chicken, Inc., & Cobb-Vantress, Inc.</u>	
R. Thomas Lay	rtl@kiralaw.com
KERR, IRVINE, RHODES & ABLES	
Frank M. Evans, III	fevans@lathropgage.com
Jennifer Stockton Griffin	jgriffin@lathropgage.com
David Gregory Brown	
LATHROP & GAGE LC	
<u>Counsel for Willow Brook Foods, Inc.</u>	
Robin S Conrad	rconrad@uschamber.com
NATIONAL CHAMBER LITIGATION CENTER	
Gary S Chilton	gchilton@hcdattorneys.com
HOLLADAY, CHILTON AND DEGIUSTI, PLLC	
<u>Counsel for US Chamber of Commerce and American Tort Reform Association</u>	
D. Kenyon Williams, Jr.	kwilliams@hallestill.com
Michael D. Graves	mgraves@hallestill.com
HALL, ESTILL, HARDWICK, GABLE, GOLDEN & NELSON	
<u>Counsel for Poultry Growers/Interested Parties/ Poultry Partners, Inc.</u>	

Richard Ford	richard.ford@crowedunlevy.com
LeAnne Burnett	leanne.burnett@crowedunlevy.com
CROWE & DUNLEVY	
<u>Counsel for Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Inc.</u>	
Kendra Akin Jones, Assistant Attorney General	Kendra.Jones@arkansasag.gov
Charles L. Moulton, Sr Assistant Attorney General	Charles.Moulton@arkansasag.gov
<u>Counsel for State of Arkansas and Arkansas National Resources Commission</u>	
Mark Richard Mullins	richard.mullins@mcafeetaft.com
MCAFEE & TAFT	
<u>Counsel for Texas Farm Bureau; Texas Cattle Feeders Association; Texas Pork Producers Association and Texas Association of Dairymen</u>	
Mia Vahlberg	mvahlberg@gablelaw.com
GABLE GOTWALS	
James T. Banks	jtbanks@hhlaw.com
Adam J. Siegel	ajsiegel@hhlaw.com
HOGAN & HARTSON, LLP	
<u>Counsel for National Chicken Council; U.S. Poultry and Egg Association & National Turkey Federation</u>	
John D. Russell	jrussell@fellerssnider.com
FELLERS, SNIDER, BLANKENSHIP, BAILEY & TIPPENS, PC	
William A. Waddell, Jr.	waddell@fec.net
David E. Choate	dchoate@fec.net
FRIDAY, ELDREDGE & CLARK, LLP	
<u>Counsel for Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation</u>	
Barry Greg Reynolds	reynolds@titushillis.com
Jessica E. Rainey	jrainey@titushillis.com
TITUS, HILLIS, REYNOLDS, LOVE, DICKMAN & MCCALMON	
Nikaa Baugh Jordan	njordan@lightfootlaw.com

William S. Cox, III	wcox@lightfootlaw.com
LIGHTFOOT, FRANKLIN & WHITE, LLC	
<u>Counsel for American Farm Bureau and National Cattlemen's Beef Association</u>	
Duane L. Berlin	dberlin@levberlin.com
LEV & BERLIN PC	
<u>Counsel for Council of American Survey Research Organizations & American Association for Public Opinion Research</u>	

Also on this ____ day of _____, 2009 I mailed a copy of the above and foregoing pleading to:

Thomas C Green -- via email: tcgreen@sidley.com
Sidley, Austin, Brown & Wood LLP

Dustin McDaniel
Justin Allen
Office of the Attorney General (Little Rock)
323 Center St, Ste 200
Little Rock, AR 72201-2610

Steven B. Randall
58185 County Rd 658
Kansas, Ok 74347

Cary Silverman -- via email: csilverman@shb.com
Victor E Schwartz
Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP (Washington DC)

/s/ David P. Page

